

REMARKS

The Office Action of January 11, 2006, was a Final Office Action in which the Examiner raised an objection to Claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, rejected Claims 19 and 36-38 based on 35 U.S.C. §102, and rejected Claims 20 and 21 based on 35 U.S.C. §103(a). All the claims that were rejected have been canceled, except for Claims 6 and 7.

Claims 6 and 7 have been twice amended to clarify the definition of Applicant's invention. Applicant believes that this second amendment of Claims 6 and 7 should be entered since the Examiner's basis for rejecting the first amended Claims 6 and 7 could only be clearly understood by Applicant in light of the detail analysis provided in the Final Office Action. The twice amended Claims 6 and 7 are supported by the disclosure and the drawing, which does not need to be amended.

Analysis of Claim 6

Specifically Figs. 6A and 6B show this bit structure (bit 200) of twice amended Claim 6 and pages 13 and 14 of the specification state:

Figs. 6A and 6B illustrate another embodiment of the bit of this invention, namely, the bit 200. The bit 200 includes three components: a drill element 202, a driver element 204, and a plate member 206 disposed between the adjacent ends A and B, respectively of the drill element and driver element. There is a cylindrical cavity 210 in the end B of the driver element 204 into which the cylindrical end A of the drill element 202 fits snugly. The plate member 206, being substantially pentagonal in shape, has four of the five sides of a pentagon, but the fifth side has therein a substantially U-shaped cut-a-way section 212 with a width w_6 that is about equal to the diameter of the end B of the driver element

204. In the end A of the drill element 202 there is an elongated axial groove 208 extending inward along the bit's longitudinal axis X1. This groove 208 has a width that is substantially equal to the thickness t of the plate member 206. Upon assembly of the three components, a cutting end 206a of the plate 206 is received in the groove 208 and the end B of the driver element 204 fits snugly into this cut-a-way section 212. These components may be force fitted together or an auxiliary bonding mechanism in addition to the frictional bond may be used to hold these components in a fixed position relative to each other.

Twice amended Claim 6 reads on the bit 200 illustrated in Figs. 6A and 6B, which show the drill element 202, driver element 204, and plate member 206 having the cutting end 206a. The plate member 206, driver element 204, and drill element 202 are assembled together with the plate member 206 being intermediate the driver element 204 and the drill element 202 and the cutting end 206a being adjacent to the drill element. The drill element 202 has an elongated groove 208 therein and the plate member 206 fits snugly therein. The plate member 206 has at one end a pointed tip (the cutting end 206a) and at an opposed end a cut-a-way section 212. An end portion B of the driver element 204 is received in the cut-a-way section 212. The driver element 204 has a diameter that is greater than a diameter of drill element 202 and there is a cavity 210 in the end portion B of the driver element into which the drill element 202 fits snugly.

Analysis of Claim 7

Specifically Figs. 7A and 7B show this bit structure (bit 300) of twice amended Claim 7 and pages 14 and 15 of the specification state:

Figs. 7A and 7B illustrate another embodiment of the bit of this invention, namely, the bit 300. The bit 300 includes three components: a drill element 302, a driver element 304, and a plate member 306 disposed between the adjacent ends C and D, respectively of the drill element and driver element. There is a cavity 310 in the end C of the drill element 302 having a hexagonal configuration substantially of the same dimensions as the cross-sectional shape of the end D of the driver element 304. The plate member 306 is substantially of the same shape as the plate member 206 and includes a substantially U-shaped cut-a-way section 312 that is about equal to the diameter of the end D of the driver element 304. In the end C there is an elongated axial groove 308 therein extending inward along the longitudinal axis X2 having a width that is substantially equal to the thickness t of the plate member 306. Upon assembly of the three components, a cutting end 306a of the plate 306 is received in the groove 308 and the end D of the driver element 304 fits snugly into the cut-a-way section 312 and also into the cavity 310. These components may be force fitted together or an auxiliary bonding mechanism may be employed such as discussed above.

Twice amended Claim 7 reads on the bit 300 illustrated in Figs. 7A and 7B, which show the drill element 302, driver element 304, and plate member 306 having the cutting end 306a. The plate member 306, driver element 304, and drill element 302 are assembled together with the plate member 306 being intermediate the driver element 304 and the drill element 302 and the cutting end 306a being adjacent to the drill element. The drill element 302 has an elongated groove 308 therein and the plate member 306 fits snugly therein. The plate member 306 has at one end a pointed tip (the cutting end 306a) and at an opposed end a cut-a-way section 312. An end portion D of the driver element 304 is received in the cut-a-way section 312. The drill element 302 has a diameter that is greater than a diameter of driver element 304 and there is a cavity 310 in

the end portion C of the drill element into which the driver element 304 fits snugly.

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Applicant believes that the rejections based on 35 U.S.C. §112, 35 U.S.C. §102, and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are now moot in view of the amendments. These amendments do not add new matter.

In view of the above, the application is deemed to be in a condition for allowance and such action is solicited.

TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would advance the allowance of this application, Applicant's attorney requests the Examiner call to arrange a date and time for such interview after having an opportunity to review the above.

EXTRA FEE

Any additional fees should be charged to Applicant's attorney deposit account as indicated below.

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Please note Applicant's attorney Customer No. 021905, and confirm that this customer number has been entered in the U. S. Patent & Trademark Office records in connection with the above-identified application.



Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being mailed with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, the correct postage paid, in an envelope addressed to: Honorable Commissioner of Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-145020231, on April 11, 2006

By: *John J. Connors*

AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE/CREDIT DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-2830.

By: *John J. Connors*